

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Ribbon Cutting held for The Executive Valet



Nevada Cooper, Carlos Lockett, and Darren Parker, owners of The Executive Valet, Inc. join in the Ribbon Cutting.

The Savannah Development and Renewal Authority (SDRA) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for The Executive Valet, Inc. Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 902 Martin Luther King Blvd.

Located centrally between Savannah's major parking garages. Executive

Valet, Inc. provides valet service to businesses located in the greater downtown Savannah. The company's mission is to provide professional, friendly, and convenient parking service. Incorporated in 2008 in Savannah, Georgia, Executive Valet, Inc. is admired for its professionalism and great

customer service. The company's business philosophy is based on consistent quality service and integrity. The company wants its customers to relax when your car is in their hands.

Representatives from the City of Savannah,

Savannah Development and Renewal Authority, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. / Montgomery Street Business Association and the Downtown Business Association were invited to serve as guest speakers at the event.

Chatham County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis' 2009 Inaugural Address

Citizens of Chatham County, honorable local and state elected officials, jurists, Chatham County staff, visitors and guests. On behalf of my fellow members of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, welcome to this 2009 Inauguration. For the first time in memory, the entire board of commissioners has been re-elected to continue to serve the people of our great county of chatham.



Pete Liakakis

This unprecedented election is both a blessing and a challenge. A blessing because it recognizes the excellent job done by each commission member for the past four years. A challenge to not just match what we have done but to exceed it in the four years which start today. I speak for us all when I say thank you for the blessing and likewise for the challenge. We will not disappoint you.

Personally, as I enter my second and final term, I am invigorated by the challenges that lie ahead. "lame duck" is not in my dictionary. It is not my style. You can expect me to work harder and better for you all.

Four years ago, we inherited a ship floundering financially and in dire need of a new compass of leadership to set a course for financial stability. This commission steered a new course through prudent planning and a strict adherence to financial discipline. Our investment paid off-not just on our word but also on the words of those who oversee our financial condition. Less than a month ago, our independent external auditor declared chatham county to be in the best shape financially of this entire modern era. Furthermore, the national financial rating agencies which determine the health of private-sector companies and public-sector organizations rewarded Chatham County with an upgrade in its bond rating to AA. These recognitions can be attributed to this commission's understanding that the county's financial condition serves as the backbone of our ability to provide quality

services to citizens and our county staff in sharing this ideal and its professionalism in helping to advise and guide the commission in its mission.

But the sea is getting rough ahead of us, and we need to made certain we trim the sails and batten down the hatches to weather this economic storm. A downturn in the economy, coupled with the downward push of services at the federal and state level, leaves local governments as the backstop. We recognize these tough times require tough decisions. By taking the steps we took over the last four years to improve our financial condition and put in place the structure for community problem solving, we could not be better prepared for the economic times ahead.

Protecting the public safety has and will continue to be job one for this commission. Chatham County continues to support the Chatham Savannah Metropolitan Police Department by providing significant resources to support the fine work of chief Michael Berkow and the men and women of the department.

Within three years, the expansion of the detention center will be completed and the additional jail cells will add meaning to the backstop of the criminal justice system. This project will present a financial challenge because of the increased funding which will be needed to operate and maintain the expanded facility.

Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis' speech will be continued in next week's edition of the Tribune

Ruby Jones Sworn in as Representative for School Board District 8

Ruby D. Jones, Representative for the Savannah Chatham County School Board, District 8, was sworn in on Wednesday, January 7, 2009, by the Honorable Judge James Bass at the Whitney



Ruby D. Jones

Administration Complex, located at 2 Laura Street.

Family, friends, community leaders, church members, sorority members and well wishers were in attendance.



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HELP SAVE LIVES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

The Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion is actively searching for volunteers for their **Community Health Advisors Program** to help decrease health care disparities in your community.

Cancer doesn't discriminate based on age, sex or color. Help save the life of your neighbor's moms, dads, sisters, brothers and friends by providing them the knowledge and know how to help prevent cancer through early detection and screenings.

As a Community Health Advisor you will have the necessary skills to:

- Educate your community, family and friends about the importance of early detection and screening for the prevention of cancer
- Recruit people for health screenings such as mammography, prostate, colon and many more
- Set up and work health fairs,
- Present in churches and other community forums

This program includes three sessions with a graduation and presentation of a certificate of completion.

When: Friday, January 23rd, 30th and February 6th

Where: Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion

Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Time: 8:30am - 4:00pm

Contact: Wanda Jones, RN

Oncology Outreach 912-819-6449

This event is free and open to the public. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Completing an application prior to the event is required and seating is limited.



SELECTED A NATIONAL
CANCER INSTITUTE COMMUNITY
CANCER CENTER PILOT PROGRAM.

Nancy N. and J.C.
Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion
at St. Joseph's/Candler

House of Abraham: Lincoln and the Todds, a Family Divided by War

In recognition of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the Georgia Historical Society is partnering with Savannah Chatham County Public Schools' See **House of Abraham**, page 6

AUDACITY OF HOPE INAUGURAL BALL

Friday, January 23rd, 8:00PM

Come & Honor the Accomplishments of a 1st Person Business Owner * President * College Graduate * Physician WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Opening Remarks by Mayor Otis Johnson
Music by Domino's Theory Jazz, R&B, Neo Soul Band

RALPH MARK GILBERT
Civil Rights Museum Ballroom
NETWORK * DANCE * MEET FRIENDS
More Info: 912-233-2585
TAPAS MENU - Mixers - Vendors

Tickets \$40 Bibles Unlimited 965-0257 * Diaspora Marketplace 232.2626 * Shepherd Bros 238-1932
Hurry & Get Your Tickets Early! \$55 On Date of Event

09' Production of Savannah African American Business Magazine